



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held June 17, 2008, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“Refugees leave their countries of citizenship due to persecution, war, and other injustices. The decision to leave is never made lightly and often time involves unimaginable risks and perils unheard of in free societies such as ours.

“Refugees and their families settle in Los Angeles County with the objective of starting new lives free of persecution and imprisonment. Los Angeles County’s Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and local refugee agencies play an integral part in assisting the refugee in this life-changing endeavor.

“Culturally and linguistically sensitive employment and specialized services are provided by the Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services and Area Refugee Agencies to refugees and their families to assist them in integrating into American society and enhancing their daily lives within the County.

“The California Department of Social Services, Refugee Program Bureau report that there have been 103,000 refugee arrivals in Los Angeles County over the last 20 years. As residents of Los Angeles County, through their talents, faiths, and shared common values, refugees enrich and enhance our society and add the diversity which strengthens the fabric of life in our communities. For the past decades, many refugees seeking freedom, safety and liberty, have chosen to resettle in Los Angeles County. Just as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Governor of California have proclaimed June 2008 as ‘World Refugee Awareness Month’ and ‘Refugee Awareness Month’, respectively, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County recognizes the numerous contributions refugees have made to enrich the culture of Los Angeles County.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried (Supervisor Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board proclaimed June 2008 as "Refugee Awareness Month" throughout Los Angeles County to increase the awareness of the strength and contributions of refugees to the County.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Executive Officer
- County Counsel
- Director of Public Social Services